



Department
of Industry

Newcastle Review <newcastle.review@ilga.nsw.gov.au>

Submission re Review of liquor license conditions for 14 Newcastle CBD venues

joan browning [REDACTED]
To: newcastle.review@ilga.nsw.gov.au

Fri, Jan 19, 2018 at 3:01 PM

Chairperson

Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority

Liquor & Gaming NSW
GPO Box 7060
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Mr Crawford,

In view of the Newcastle Solution having been used as a model for other cities because it has demonstrated the post-implementation reduction of alcohol-related crimes I hereby submit my unconditional support for the retention of the current package of license conditions commonly referred to as the s104 Newcastle Conditions. I also believe any review of such conditions should be conducted by ILGA in an open and transparent manner under the same legal provisions (conference) by which they originated.

In addition I support Superintendent John Gralton's strong public appeal for the preservation of the integrity of the package of conditions and agree to his proposal to strengthen the 'last drinks' provisions[1] given the available scientific evidence.

As a Newcastle East resident of almost 30 years I witnessed the ongoing horrific alcohol related violent incidents prevalent prior to the modest reduction in alcohol trading hours across these venues in March 2008. I found it extremely uncomfortable and potentially dangerous, entering the CBD area of an evening - even driving past the 'watering holes' required extreme caution as the overflow of drunken revellers gloried in parading along the main roads. My adult children

working in restaurants within the CBD feared for their safety while attempting to get home from work of an evening - for too much violence for them to walk home the few blocks. The city streets, buildings and facilities were constantly in need of a clean up, wash down and frequent repair the morning after. Staying safely at home did not isolate residents from such behaviour. In Newcastle East our houses abut the footpath and the shouting, fighting and damage done by homeward revellers in the early hours of the morning was a constant and distressing occurrence. The many retirees who had purchased homes/units in Newcastle were horrified at the level of anti-social behaviour and refused to participate in any night life - something they had thought would be an inner-city living positive. We now all enjoy the relative safety of night-time in the Newcastle CBD

Considering the level of reported domestic violence in Newcastle, many alcohol related, is also almost twice the NSW average rate the proposed relaxation of the current license conditions will inflate this statistic and endanger many families - including young children. And the reported rate of non-domestic assaults in our CBD is still around 9 times the NSW average rate. This should be a concern to all.

Overwhelming independent scientific evidence shows a strong association between last drinks times, liquor outlet density and alcohol related problems.

Any increase in alcohol availability is extremely likely to result in increased alcohol related violence, related crimes including malicious damage, sexual assaults, disorderly conduct and a reduction in local amenity/quiet and good order of our neighbourhood. As a local resident I am opposed to any dilution of our package of Newcastle conditions. They have proven unarguably successful in reducing alcohol related anti-social behaviours and improving the enjoyment and safety of inner city life.

Joan Browning

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